



Recycling is just as important during the holiday season as it is all year long. Recycling conserves our natural resources and gives items a new life. All the extra holiday items need to be disposed of correctly so that we don't harm the environment.

When it comes to protecting the environment we all want to recycle, but recycling incorrectly reduces the value of the materials we put in our blue bins. The cleaner our recycling stream is the more valuable it is! It is important to make sure that the whole family knows the right and wrong ways to recycle, during the holidays and all year long.

Holiday Items That Can Go in the Recycling Bin:

Recyclables should never be put in bags in your recycling bin – items must be loose in your bin in order to be recycled. Most paper and cardboard holiday products can be recycled. The only exception is if the items are metallic, foil, or have glitter. A glossy finish is fine, as long as it isn't metallic or glittery. So most of the following can go in your recycling bin:

- Greeting cards and envelopes
- Gift boxes or gift bags (bag handles can be cut to avoid tangling during sorting)
- Cardboard boxes
- Catalogs and magazines
- Wrapping paper

Holiday Items that are Recyclable but Not in Your Recycling Bin:

This is the category that always seems to cause the most confusion! There are a number of items that are recyclable, but not as part of the curbside recycling program. These items have to be recycled at other locations. Placing them in the recycling bin slows down the process and causes problems.

Film Plastics

The most important thing on this list is film plastics. This includes plastic overwraps, shipping pouches, bubble wrap, and most importantly plastic bags. When these are placed in recycling bins they can become caught in the sorting machinery and cause all kinds of issues.

But some of these plastics are recyclable, and can be dropped off in containers at stores that use plastic bags. Most grocery stores, pharmacies, and big-box stores have a container for these plastics right out front. (Article continued on back...)



DIY Mason Jar Hot Cocoa Gift: Website Resource with Instructions and Printable Gift Tags!

Are you looking for a cute, economical gift to reuse jars and ribbons you already have at home? I have found just what you're looking for! Go to the following website address for free customizable hot cocoa recipes to make your own custom mason jar hot cocoa gift. It even comes with printable gift tags for decoration. Your friends and relatives will love this! Visit: [Mason Jar Hot Cocoa Gift with Printable Tag \(rufflesandrainboots.com\)](http://rufflesandrainboots.com)



It is also important to remember that your recyclables should NEVER be bagged when put into the recycling bins. Place items in the recycling bin loose, and recycle clean plastic bags at local retailers.

Christmas Trees

You can bring your live Christmas tree to the Preble County landfill between December 27 and February 1 to the landfill for recycling into mulch for free. Consider donating artificial trees to others who may need them or make crafts from the parts.

Electronics and Batteries

Electronics and batteries don't belong in your recycling bin, but you can dispose of them properly by bringing them to the Household Hazardous Waste Trailer at the Preble County Landfill during regular landfill hours: M-F 8:30 AM to 4 PM.

Christmas Lights

Christmas lights are pretty and fun decoration, but they should not go in your recycle bin. Bring your Christmas lights for free recycling to the Preble County Landfill from December 1 to February 1. Place them in the container inside the Electronics Trailer. There will also be containers at the Preble County Courthouse lobby in Eaton during the months of December and January.

Items to Donate:

Many of us clean out our old clothes and toys around the holidays to make room for new presents. These items can be donated to charitable organizations like the Salvation Army or local churches.

Holiday Items to Throw Out:

Unfortunately, not everything can be recycled. If you have cards, envelopes, gift wrap, or gift bags or boxes that are metallic, foil, or have glitter they should be reused or thrown out. In addition, Styrofoam, ribbons and bows also need to be discarded after use.

Other Ways to Help:

Besides recycling correctly, there are other ways to help. One way is to not use holiday wrappings that can't be recycled. Presents look beautiful and will be appreciated even if they aren't wrapped in sparkly foil paper! Other ways you can help is to reuse decorations from year to year, make crafts from old Christmas cards or other seasonal décor, regift usable seasonal items to others who can use them, and give gifts that require little or no packaging. Experience gifts such as a trip to someplace special is a great option! Finally, buying your gifts at local shops and stores saves gas and often valuable time. Be sure to wrap the gift in environmentally friendly wrapping paper.

*Adapted from an article found at: <https://www.upstateramblings.com/recycling-tips-for-the-holidays/>